**Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme in States**

† * 386. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme of the, Tamil Nadu Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce such schemes all over the country, through their financial assistance;

(c) if not, whether Government would also assist financially such schemes in States where it is already existing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has already launched the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly called the Mid-Day Meal Scheme) in August 1995, under which foodgrains are made available free of cost to States/UTs for children of primary classes (I-V) in Government, local bodies and Government aided schools. Transportation charges also being reimbursed to State agencies. The cost of conversion of foodgrains into cooked meals is to be met by the States/Implementing Agencies.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.